57. 5-30-02 2/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

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Serial No. (not assigned)

Examiner (not assigned)

Filed concurrently herewith

Art Unit (not assigned)

For GAS OPENING/CLOSING PIN

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant requests entry of the following amendments:

In the Abstract

On page 12, at line 14, delete "FIG. 5".

In the Claims

Please amend claims 5-7 to read as follows (a marked up version of these claims being appended hereto):

- 1
- 5. A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the gas opening/closing
- 2 pin is made of a metal.
- 6. A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the outer periphery of the
- 2 upper end portion of the gas opening/closing pin is chamfered.
- 7. A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the gas opening/closing
- 2 pin is made of a nonmetal.